9th December 1954]

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, in answer to a question put by me previously, the Hon. Minister gave the information that two tractors and a bulldozers were held up in the Andhra State. He also informed us that all steps were being taken to bring them to Madras State. I want to know what further action was taken in the matter and what the result is."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the whole matter is under discussion with the Andhra Government. I would like to submit that it is not in the general interests to go more into details at this stage."

Exclusion of the Anandji Kalyanji Jain Temple Trust, Kozhikode, Malabar, from the scope of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act.

* 156 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Anandji Kalyanji Jain Temple Trust, Kozhikode, Malabar, is exempted by the Government from all the provisions of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) ' Yes, Sir '.

" (*b*) It was reported that some of the buildings had to be demolished and some others required major repairs. Also, 61 out of 65 tenants had no objection to the grant of exemption. In view of these facts and of the fact that the buildings were owned and managed by the Temple Trust, the Collector of Malabar recommended exemption and it was granted by Government."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact, Sir that this Jain Temple has got properties worth some lakhs of rupees and that they are charging exorbitant rents from their tenants? May I know from the Hon. Minister why this temple is given exemption and whether Government received any deputation from Congress Leaders in this regard? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the information with me is that this Temple Trust has no other income except this and this income is hardly sufficient to meet charges on repairs to buildings, etc. And then 61 out of 65 tenants have accepted the enhancement in rent thinking that it was reasonable and only four have objected. On top of it, the Collector has recommended the request for exemption and it is that which prompted the Government to take this action."